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SECRET

May 2, 1973

PRESIDENT'S THURSDAY BRIEFING

For the President

Lebanese/Fedayeen Clash: Lebanese army elements and fedayeen

clashed at refugee camp sites on the rim of Beirut yesterday. Lebanese forces moved quickly, using tank support, to surround the sites and

localize fighting, and to strengthen overall security in the capital. Our

embassy described the situation ~~as~~ ^{as of yesterday} as not characteristic of a full-scale

~~confrontation~~ ^{but} confrontation, ~~and~~ they are reliably told that President

Frangie is ^{absolutely} determined to ^{put an end to} ~~control~~ the fedayeen ^{taking the law into their own hands.} ~~this time around.~~ In a

related development, a number of rockets were reportedly fired at

our ambassador's residence, also outside the city, missing the target

and causing no damage.

Lebanese army

The current clashes have ~~characteristically~~ followed renewed/efforts, ^{and at the airport}

especially in the vicinity of these refugee camps, to crack down on the tensions following the recent

fedayeen in the wake ~~of the recent~~ Israeli raid against Beirut ^{The fedayeen seized two army NCO's.} ~~over the week~~ The question

remains whether the fedayeen will choose to provoke full-scale confrontation ^{at this time} /

against the backdrop of recent ~~events and~~ frustrations and their special bitterness

at Israel's forthcoming independence celebrations (May 7) ^{and, if so, whether} ~~at xxxxxx~~

organized guerrillas from Syria would move into Lebanon to support them.

(Neuber/Saunders)

DIA Spot Report #1 - 2 May 1973

Sources - Reuter 97 - 3 May 1973

Beirut: 5221 - 0 021340Z May 73

" 4999 - 0 020900Z May 73

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